

SENATE BILL NO. 164

INTRODUCED BY GILLAN, HIMMELBERGER, GRINDE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING MAIN STREET IN BILLINGS AS THE RICHARD DEAN ROEBLING MEMORIAL HIGHWAY; AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE MARKERS RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION."

WHEREAS, statistics compiled by the Montana Department of Transportation indicate that in the last 2 years, nearly 40% of all fatal accidents involving motor vehicles were alcohol-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, the 97 fatalities that resulted from alcohol-related crashes in 2003 serve as a painful reminder of the need to promote highway safety; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the 55th Legislature recognized the dangers that motor vehicles posed to individuals engaged in highway construction and maintenance work; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate the dangers, the 55th Legislature enacted a bill that doubled penalties for traffic violations in highway construction and work zones; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, to further protect highway workers, the 58th Legislature created the offense of reckless endangerment of a highway worker; and

WHEREAS, despite legislative efforts and a public information campaign initiated by the Department of Transportation to warn the driving public to drive slowly and carefully through highway construction and work zones, accidents have occurred in these areas; and

WHEREAS, in June 2004, 38-year-old father of two Richard Dean Roebling, a road engineer employed on a road reconstruction project on Main Street in Billings, was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Main Street in Billings bear the name of Mr. Roebling to commemorate Mr. Roebling's life and service to the community of Billings, to recognize the valuable contributions of highway construction workers in Yellowstone County and throughout the state, and to remind motorists of the dangers of drunk driving and the importance of driving carefully through highway construction and work zones.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Richard Dean Roebling memorial highway.** (1) The portion of U.S.

1 highway 87 known as "Main Street" in Billings is established as the Richard Dean Roebling memorial highway
2 FOR COMMEMORATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

3 (2) The department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the name of the highway BUT MAY
4 NOT ERECT MORE THAN THREE MARKERS ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
7 integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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